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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 5 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin, dated 1 September 2000, on the decision by President of the United States of America B. Clinton not to undertake to develop a national anti-missile defence system (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under item 74 of the provisional agenda on general and complete disarmament.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin

The Russian Federation considers the decision by President of the United States of America B. Clinton not to undertake to develop a national anti-missile defence system a well thought-out and responsible step. I am sure that President Clinton took this step on the basis of an in-depth analysis, after thorough consideration taking into account also the views of the allies and partners of the United States.

This step will undoubtedly strengthen strategic stability and security throughout the world and enhance the authority of the United States in the eyes of the international community, particularly on the eve of the Millennium Summit.

This does not mean that Washington's and Moscow's approaches with regard to the issue of anti-missile defence are now completely identical. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation is prepared to continue active joint work with the United States and other interested States in ensuring international security, including making speedy progress towards agreements on the further reduction of nuclear arsenals, improving nuclear-missile non-proliferation regimes, and strengthening strategic stability through political means. The corresponding instructions have already been given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Security Council of the Russian Federation.